

Clifton - Bristol.
Apr May 3. 1847

My dear worthy friend,

Your letter of Oct. last reminds me of all the thanks I owe to you - & all the reproach I owe myself, for not sooner expressing my obligations for so many instances of your kind compliance with sundry troublesome commissions from me. Once for all let me now thank you for these; while I feel that for every fresh communication from you, I have renewed occasion of thankfulness for the pleasure & information I always receive from them.

Let me by way of some apology for myself - just say that your last welcome letter came to cheer & interest me in a sick room where I was confined by an obstinate attack on my chest for very many weeks. Our winter proved a most singularly trying one to many constitutions, & to my own among the number; - but I am humbly thankful that my health has never been better than it has been ever since my tardy recovery. Perhaps I ought not to say that my long confinement very much impeded my correspondence - for though little able to speak, - I was able to write. Well then, - let me say further, - that it just happened opportunistically as it were, that the leisure thus afforded me, gave me the means of meeting epistolary claims on urgent affairs at home that I could hardly have encountered, had I been engaged with my usual Congregational duties. And so your good letter was laid aside for future

P.S. We want further elucidation as to Dr. Dewey's precise expressions at Washington. Deeply shall we strive to hear of his noble talents & high position being compromised in the way expected. Will the witness proviso be successful? If so, is it not a cheering sign? -

opportunity! — The Affair to which I see you
make allusion — that about our Red Cross School
in Bristol, — having been disposed of — at least to
present appearances — I was unavoidably led
to attend the war to the Tarent Society itself — the
British & Foreign School Society in London; — and
correspondence without end, — & I may say, without
one particle of help from any human being —
(except now that I have craved them to it, — from
the intelligent Solicitor of our Brit & For. Unitarian
Association) — has been the very onerous consequence.

I must send you by first parcel I hear of
my printed "Letter to the Editor of the Patriot" —
in exposure of the mala fides of the B. & F. School
Society — which has not yet been answered;
and I feel certain is unanswerable &

These "Orthodox" encroachments on us; — while the
perpetrators are loud in their protests against
the encroachments of the Church on them — are
amusing — through such —; they reveal a
humiliating spectacle of human nature! —

The interests of the Slave have not been forgotten
all this while. I enclose you a document which
will prove this, & will interest you as I trust,

but disappointingly too, - I believe the same packet
which brought us the otherwise welcome invitation
from the Brethren at Boston - brought us too that
painful announcement of disclosure respecting
Dr Whitridge! -

Our "Union" meeting afterwards happening precisely
at this crisis, - the subject was necessarily presented
to our notice, and I prepared the "Reply"
which I enclose: - It entirely met the
sympathy of our assembled meeting - both of
lay & clerical members. But the subject
being important in itself & in its possible
consequences, - I readily assented to the further
consideration of it by

a subcommittee -
who should report
to a general meeting; -

but which proceedings would of course preclude
an immediate "reply" - in time for the first packet
of this month - so as to reach Boston before
our subcom^{ee} are to meet
tomorrow (the 4th) - when this will probably
be afloat - on its way to you. The

com^{ee} consists of Messrs - Estlin, - G. J.
Thomas (Treasurer of our Lewis & Clark Society) -
and Rev^d Rob^t Wallcut - Minister at Bath -
Jerome March late Do - G. Armstrong, &
Wm James. I foresee

My Amistad & my warm regards

in other quarters - a pretty little difference of opinion - a
hopeful Schism! The Conciliators will be for never minding;
but the men who have heard, admired, & felt with
Frederick Douglass, would not so easily find themselves in
comfortable religious association, on the same
platform with an actual holder of 120 Slaves! -
He may be a very worthy man - & may feel that
he cannot help himself: - but even conceding him the
almost palliation he can claim - it must be declared to be
the unavoidable misfortune of slave-holding in whatever circum-
stances, to expose the holder of a fellow-man in chains to social
embarrassment & often exclusion

(3rd April) May 3. 1847.
To the
Rev Samuel May Junr
(Care of Samuel May Esq)
Boston
Massachusetts (U.S.)

Who is Mr Knapps of Boston who writes in such
a silly strain about F. Douglass? -
I may have you yet met with Mr Geo Wilson? -
He goes to the worship conducted by Mr Craft - which
he much likes - I shall wish much to hear from you.
God bless you - Have you yet got a pulpit to your wishes? -
I'll well here: Ever yours - Geo Armstrong -

we want further elucidation as to Mr Dewey's opinion respecting at Washington.